



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

No Other Gospel: Paul's Work: Hidden, Confirmed,

Bible Reading: Galatians 1:18, 21 - 24; 2:1 - 10

[Watch LIVESTREAM here at 10am](#)

[Join our post-sermon discussion on Zoom at 11am](#)

[Join our citKids Connect discussion at 11am](#)

Paul's Work – Hidden

A. Timeline (using map)

1. Damascus – Arabia- Damascus
2. Jerusalem after 3 years – visiting Peter
3. Syria & Cilicia – extended period—“hidden years’...[between] AD 36 & 45/46?
4. Antioch- about 1 year (Acts 11:26)
5. Jerusalem after 14 years to provide famine relief (Acts 11:27-30)

B. The “hidden years” – preaching the gospel revealed to him, in Damascus, Syria & Cilicia (Gal. 1:21-23)

1. Continued to receive revelation (2 Cor. 12:2-4)
 1. “I know a man in Christ who was caught up to the 3rd heaven 14 years ago...This man...was caught up into paradise & heard inexpressible words, which a human being is not allowed to speak.” (2 Cor. 12:2-4)
2. Not promoting his revelation – what was it?
3. Productive years – what happened?
 1. “What is one to make of these...‘hidden years’...[between] AD 36 & 48/49?...These ‘unknown years’ were very formative & productive years for the apostle Paul & the early church...Paul was actively engaged in mission & did not merely sit around waiting for another heavenly vision.” – Arthur Patzia

4. Suffering (2 Cor.11:23–29)
 1. In 2 Cor.11:23–29...Paul lists...trials... Verse 24 is...suggestive: 'five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one.' ...39 lashes suggests...synagogue discipline...F. F. Bruce writes, 'It may well be that some of [these '5 times'] belong to this Cilician phase of his life.'" Mark Wilson
- C. Later, Paul was brought to Antioch by Barnabas (Acts 11:25-26)
 1. "So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, & when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church & taught a great many people..." (Acts 11:25-26)
 2. Due to many Gentiles receiving gospel
 3. Paul went but did not seek out the opportunity for himself
- D. Application
 1. Preaching without fanfare
 2. Not looking for fame or celebrity status
 3. Negative examples e.g. Josh Harris
 1. Speaking and magazine editor while in his in teens
 2. At 21 wrote a best seller I Kissed Dating Goodbye (1M plus copies)
 3. At 29 became lead pastor of a mega-church
 4. In early 40's no longer identified as a Christian & divorced his wife of 20 years.
 5. Now a 'Message Coach' – "helping people to promote their voice" in essence how to promote yourself.
 1. "Behind every celebrity pastor is an adoring congregation that both loves & supports the celebrity atmosphere... It begins when a pastor has a driving ambition for fame, but it can't take root unless the congregation supports that ambition."–Scot McKnight

Paul's Work – Confirmed

- A. Paul goes to Jerusalem after 14 years
- B. By revelation – Acts 11:27-30
 1. " 27 In those days...prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 One of them...Agabus, stood up & predicted by the Spirit that there would be a severe famine throughout the Roman world. ...29Each of the disciples, according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brothers & sisters who lived in Judea. 30 They did this, sending it to the elders by means of Barnabas & Saul." (Acts 11:27-30)
- C. Paul is confident in his gospel but willing to be evaluated
- D. "Confident that he received his gospel by a revelation from Jesus, Paul does not mean to suggest doubt about its truth. But his evangelizing efforts would surely be undermined if he was not supported by the leaders of the Jerusalem church, & the unity of the church would be compromised." NIV Zondervan Study Bible.
- E. Paul's attitude toward those who were influential (Gal. 2:6a)
 1. God doesn't have favorites
 2. Another warning of celebrity status
- F. Confirmed by the Jerusalem apostles (Gal. 2:6-9)
 1. Added nothing (Gal. 2:6b)
 2. Saw Paul was entrusted with gospel to the uncircumcised just as Peter was to the circumcised.
 3. Same God worked in Peter as in Paul
 4. Acknowledged the grace given to Paul
 5. Gave the right hand of fellowship (Gal. 2:9)
 6. 'Right hand of fellowship'—an official agreement between Paul...& the Jerusalem pillars. Scot McKnight
- G. Why is this important?
 1. Nothing added to the gospel, no other requirements (Gal. 2:6)
 2. One people of God – neither Jew or Gentile – all are one in Christ (Gal. 3:28)
- H. Application:
 1. Same God works in different ways with different people
 2. No competition because we have the same gospel for the same result

Paul's Work – Contested

- A. By a special interest group who want Gentiles to be circumcised to be allowed to be part of the people of God
- B. Adding a requirement to the gospel
- C. Paul is very clear that the gospel is centered on the death & resurrection of Christ & the work of the Spirit.
- D. He is fighting for the truth of the gospel for the sake of the believers, especially Gentile believers
 - 1. "Paul calls "the truth of the gospel," the truth that, because of the death & resurrection of Jesus & the gift of the Spirit, the believing gentiles were no longer impure & idolatrous pagans, but were fellow members of the messianic [Jesus] family."—N. T. Wright
 - 2. "This is the heresy Paul confronts: a "gospel" that minimizes the work of Christ & undermines the ministry of the Spirit."—Scot McKnight
- E. Application: too easy to add requirements to be acceptable
 - 1. Following a certain "extra teaching"
 - 2. Following or requiring adherence to a certain ministry or person
 - 3. Special practices (e.g. music) special language (way of praying, jargon)